

SENATE RESOLUTION 56
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Brenda Springfield for her unremitting courage in the face of adversity.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body honor those people who through their courage and will to achieve are credits to their family and community; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Ms. Brenda Springfield of Memphis, who in 1991 sustained life-threatening injuries as the result of a random shooting; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Springfield is a remarkably gifted woman from Somerville. The oldest girl in a family of 12, she was enrolled at Shelby State Community College and worked as a nursing assistant at a Memphis health care center prior to the shooting; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Fayette-Ware High School, where she was an honor roll student and member of the yearbook staff, Brenda's aspirations after high school were to become a nurse; and

WHEREAS, just two days after her first class at Shelby State, Brenda was eating at a restaurant with friends when she was struck by a bullet intended for someone else, narrowly missing her heart and nicking her spinal cord twice; and

WHEREAS, following the senseless shooting, Brenda would spend over three months in the hospital, where doctors told her she would be a paraplegic for the rest of her life; and

WHEREAS, Brenda's strength and courage in the face of adversity has served as a motivating force for her and others with similar injuries. She began helping other spinal cord

patients deal with their losses, joining a project at Baptist Memorial Hospital involving spinal cord patients; and

WHEREAS, Brenda became actively involved in patient support counseling; her involvement spread to speaking engagements at schools and churches; and

WHEREAS, Brenda Springfield credits much of her recovery to Memphis Works, a nonprofit organization designed to train the disabled and place them in career jobs. Despite an occasional setback, Brenda's initiative has made her "one of the program's best students" according to Larry Hubbard, the person in charge of program development at Memphis Works; and

WHEREAS, Brenda's courage and enthusiasm exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is with great admiration that the members of this legislative body pay tribute to those persons who, through their determination to overcome difficult obstacles, are a source of pride for all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Ms. Brenda Springfield for her courage and numerous accomplishments in the face of adversity and wish her every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Ms. Springfield with this final clause omitted from such copy.